

Delaware Motion Picture and Television Development Commission
Minutes of February 23, 2017

Attendees: Rick Geisenberger, Secretary of Finance
TJ Healy
Rhett Ruggerio
Brian McGlinchey
Elliott Jacobson
Kathy McGuinness
Cynthia Small
Ray Bivens
David Sheppard
Patty Davis and Jennifer Noel, DAGs, Dept. of Justice

Rick Geisenberger called meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

Each attendee introduced him/herself.

The Commission elected officers, as follows:

For the position of Chair, Mr. Sheppard nominated Mr. Healy. Mr. Ruggerio seconded the motion. The motion electing Mr. Healy as Chair carried by unanimous vote.

For the position of Vice Chair, Mr. Healy nominated Mr. Sheppard. Ms. McGuinness seconded the motion. The motion electing Mr. Sheppard as Vice Chair carried by unanimous vote.

For the position of Secretary, Mr. Healy nominated Ms. McGuinness. Ms. Small seconded the motion. The motion electing Ms. McGuinness as Secretary carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Healy then provided an historical perspective of the creation of the Commission, including background, to the mid-90s.

The members then started to discuss programs that would allow the promotion of motion picture and television industry in the State of Delaware. As part of this discussion, Mr. Healy discussed the intent to create a rebate or incentive program to bring motion picture or television filming to Delaware. Ms. McGuinness discussed the various goods and services that have to be available to draw people to Delaware. Mr. Geisenberger noted that legislation is required to create any incentives. Mr. Healy noted that the only way to propose legislation is to understand what the possibilities are. Mr. Geisenberger noted challenging budget environment. He also noted that some states have eliminated their incentive programs recently. Mr. Sheppard discussed possibility of creating benefits to bring people in, including a rebate on payroll taxes, noting that filming for House of Cards recently moved from DC to Baltimore

The members then discussed how to proceed to promote the state's benefits in the absence of tax incentives, including through getting an intern to compile helpful information, coordinating photos, etc., and creating a web site for the Commission.

Regarding the development of by-laws, the Members did not discuss this in detail. However, DAG Davis recommended leaving this on the agenda to keep in forefront of members' minds, even though many Commissions do not create by-laws because the statutory mandate is the breadth of the power of the Commission.

For the next meeting, the members agreed that content for the website and existing incentives currently in existence should be items on the agenda.

There was no other business.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Mr. Jacobson summarized the immediate needs of the Commission to develop its mission, develop a budget, devise a fundraising plan, including whether with state or private funding, look at the Film Delaware website and consider whether to merge that into a site for the Commission, and develop the Commission's message.

In response, Ms. McGuinness suggested getting interns, developing the value of the Commission, and only considering asking for money once the value has been determined.

Upon Motion of Mr. Sheppard, seconded by Ms. McGuinness and unanimously approved by those in attendance, the meeting adjourned at 3:45.